

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims 2, 3, 9, and 10** without prejudice or disclaimer, and **amend claims 1, 4, and 7** as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A cutting apparatus for a lawn mower, the lawn mower including a vertical rotating shaft, said cutting apparatus comprising:

a base plate adapted to be connected fixedly to the rotating shaft and having a side surface and a rotating axis, said base plate being elongated and having two blade-retaining holes formed respectively through two ends of said base plate;

an abutment post extending integrally from said side surface of said base plate and formed with an annular surface coaxial with said rotating axis of said base plate;

a pair of first and second guiding blocks extending integrally from said side surface of said base plate and located at two opposite sides of said abutment post, each of said first and second guiding blocks being formed with a line-receiving slot therethrough that has an inner end proximate to said abutment post, and an outer end distal from said abutment post, said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks being coplanar, said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks being straight and parallel to each other, said rotating axis of said base plate being located between imaginary extension lines of said line-receiving slots in

said first and second guiding blocks, said first and second guiding blocks being disposed between said blade-retaining holes in said base plate; and

a cutting unit including:

a nylon line that extends through said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks and that has

a pair of first and second block-engaging line portions received respectively within said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks,

a curved post-engaging line portion abutting against said annular surface of said abutment post,

a generally straight first connecting line portion interconnecting said first block-engaging line portion and said post-engaging line portion so as to form an acute angle between said first block-engaging line portion and said first connecting line portion, thereby preventing said nylon line from being removed from said first and second guiding blocks by centrifugal force of said nylon line when the rotating shaft rotates,

a generally straight second connecting line portion interconnecting said second block-engaging line portion and said post-engaging line portion, and

a blade assembly having two blade members, each of which has a cutting blade portion and a mounting blade portion that are interconnected fixedly, said mounting blade portions of said blade

members being mounted respectively and detachably within said blade-retaining holes in said base plate, said cutting blade portions extending from said mounting blade portions away from each other, whereby one of said nylon line and said blade assembly of said cutting unit can be removed from said base plate during use.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The cutting apparatus as claimed in Claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein each of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate is gourd-shaped, and has a radial inner end that is formed with a large-diameter hole portion, and a radial outer end that is formed with a small-diameter hole portion which has a diameter smaller than that of said large-diameter hole portion and which defines a neck portion between said large-diameter hole portion and said small-diameter hole portion, said mounting blade portion of each of said blade members including:

a blade body sized to be prevented from moving through said large-diameter hole portion and said small-diameter hole portion of a corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate,

a head sized to be prevented from moving through said small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate and to be permitted to move

through said large-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate, and

a neck disposed between and formed integrally with said blade body and said head, said neck being received fittingly within said small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate and being movable from said small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate into the small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate through said neck portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate so as to permit removal of a corresponding one of said blade members from said base plate.

5. (Original) The cutting apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said base plate is made of a plastic material, each of said head and said neck of said mounting blade portion of each of said blade members having a circular cross-section, said neck portion of each of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate having a width that is slightly smaller than diameter of said neck of a corresponding one of said mounting blade portions of said blade members such that said neck of the corresponding one of said mounting blade portions of said blade members is movable forcibly through said neck portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate.

6. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A cutting apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein for a lawn mower, the lawn mower including a vertical rotating shaft, said cutting apparatus comprising:

a base plate adapted to be connected fixedly to the rotating shaft and having a side surface and a rotating axis;

an abutment post extending integrally from said side surface of said base plate and formed with an annular surface coaxial with said rotating axis of said base plate;

a pair of first and second guiding blocks extending integrally from said side surface of said base plate and located at two opposite sides of said abutment post, each of said first and second guiding blocks being formed with a line-receiving slot therethrough that has an inner end proximate to said abutment post, and an outer end distal from said abutment post, said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks being coplanar; and

a cutting unit including a nylon line that extends through said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks and that has

a pair of first and second block-engaging line portions received respectively within said line-receiving slots in said first and second guiding blocks,

a curved post-engaging line portion abutting against said annular surface of said abutment post,

a generally straight first connecting line portion interconnecting said first block-engaging line portion and said post-engaging line portion so as to form an acute angle between said first block-engaging line portion and said first connecting line portion, thereby preventing said nylon line from being removed from said first and second guiding blocks by centrifugal force of said nylon line when the rotating shaft rotates, and

a generally straight second connecting line portion interconnecting said second block-engaging line portion and said post-engaging line portion,

said base plate [[is]] being elongated[[,]] and [[has]] having two blade-retaining holes that are formed respectively through two ends of said base plate, said first and second guiding blocks being disposed between said blade-retaining holes in said base plate, said cutting unit further including a blade assembly having two blade members, each of which has a cutting blade portion and a mounting blade portion that are interconnected fixedly, said mounting blade portions of said blade members being mounted respectively and detachably within said blade-retaining holes in said base plate, said cutting blade portions extending from said mounting blade portions away from each other, whereby one of said nylon line and said blade assembly of said cutting unit can be removed from said base plate during use.

7. (Currently amended) The cutting apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, wherein each of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate is gourd-shaped, and has a radial inner end that is formed with a large-diameter hole portion, and a radial outer end that is formed with a small-diameter hole portion which has a diameter smaller than that of said large-diameter hole portion and which defines a neck portion between said large-diameter hole portion and said small-diameter hole portion, said mounting blade portion of each of said blade members including:

a blade body sized to be prevented from moving through said large-diameter hole portion and said small-diameter hole portion of a corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate,

a head sized to be prevented from moving through said small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate and to be permitted to move through said large-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate, and

a neck disposed between and formed integrally with said blade body and said head, said neck being received fittingly within said small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate and being movable from said small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate into the small-diameter hole portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in

said base plate through said neck portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate so as to permit removal of a corresponding one of said blade members from said base plate.

8. (*Original*) The cutting apparatus as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said base plate is made of a plastic material, each of said head and said neck of said mounting blade portion of each of said blade members having a circular cross-section, said neck portion of each of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate having a width that is slightly smaller than diameter of said neck of a corresponding one of said mounting blade portions of said blade members such that said neck of the corresponding one of said mounting blade portions of said blade members is movable forcibly through said neck portion of the corresponding one of said blade-retaining holes in said base plate.

9. (*Cancelled*)

10. (*Cancelled*)